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4/25/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: R. Boucher
Serial No.: To Be Assigned
Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: *COMPOUNDS AND METHODS FOR THE TREATMENT OF AIRWAY DISEASES AND FOR THE DELIVERY OF AIRWAY DRUGS*

March 1, 2002

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Preliminary Amendment

Dear Sir:

In the specification:

Please delete the first paragraph entitled "Statement of Priority" and insert the following paragraph:

--STATEMENT OF PRIORITY

This application is a divisional of United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/465,429, filed December 21, 1999, which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/137,991 filed June 7, 1999 and from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/113,785 filed December 22, 1998, the disclosures of which are to be incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.--

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 2-13, and 22-30, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the following claim:

1 (amended). A method for treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in a subject in need of such treatment, comprising administering at least one osmotically active compound to an airway surface of the subject in an amount effective to increase the volume of liquid on the airway surface;

wherein the at least one osmotically active compound comprises at least one salt.